President Barack Obama to Deliver Morehouse’s 129th Commencement on May 19th

BY ADD SEYMOUR JR.

President John Silvanaus Wilson Jr. ’79 was about to speak to staff gathered in the Bank of America Auditorium on Feb. 6 when his phone rang. He quickly apologized, excused himself from the room, and walked off the stage.

Ten days later during the College’s “A Candle in the Dark” Gala, he revealed why that call was so important. Morehouse history would be made on May 19 when President Barack Obama delivered the 129th Commencement address on the Century Campus at 11 a.m.

“It was a wonderful announcement to make,” Wilson said. “I talked about this being a pivotal year for all that you have done for me and all that you have enabled me to do. I love Morehouse College and I always will.”

This is who we always aspire to be. Thank you, Morehouse College, and raise $10 million by June 31.

The campaign is to raise alumni giving to 65 percent. For more information about the ForeverMOREhouse Alumni Appeal, go to http://www.morehouse.edu/forevermorehouse/index.html.

For more information about the ForeverMOREhouse Campaign, go to http://www.morehouse.edu/forevermorehouse/index.html.
Inside Morehouse is about the people who make up the Morehouse College community. To tell those stories, WE NEED YOU to send us your ideas, comments and thoughts, along with your news, information about your new books or publications and your commentary for sections like My Word.

To send us your information, contact Inside Morehouse Editor Add Seymour Jr. at assymour@morehouse.edu

For up-to-the minute information about the College, go to www.morehouse.edu or visit Morehouse on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Tumblr.

www.morehouse.edu

Director of Public Relations
Toni O’Neal Mosley
mmosley@morehouse.edu

Executive Editor
Vickie G. Hampton
vhampton@morehouse.edu

Calendar Editor
Julie Pinkney Tanguie
jtongue@morehouse.edu

Photographers
Philip McCulloh
Add Seymour Jr.

Graphic Design
Glennon Design Group

Web Services
Kara Walker
LaDonna Johnson

Administrative Assistant
Minnie L. Jackson

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Melissa Bailey, assistant to the director of Alumni Relations, received a master’s degree in leadership from Shorter University on May 3.

Nakir Barker, grant writer in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, presented the paper, “The Impact of Attitudes Towards Homosexuality on Health Policy Support” during the 9th Annual Health Disparities Conference, March 7-9, at Xavier University in New Orleans. Also presenting at the conference was Wallace Shank, assistant professor of biology, who gave a presentation titled “Telomere Length as a Biomarker for Health Status in African American Males,” and Brandy Young, assistant professor of psychology, who gave a presentation titled “Exploring Masculine Capital and Sexual Behavior Among Males: Attending a Historically Black College Implications for Preventive Interventions.”

Tiffany Bussey, director of the Morehouse College Entrepreneurship Center, earned a doctorate in business administration from Heriot-Watt University’s Edinburgh Business School in April 19.


C.D. Hollis, chief audit officer, was featured in the Atlanta Business Chronicle’s special section on the Institute of Internal Auditors Feb. 8. Hollis was quoted in a story on certified internal auditor certification and in a story in which he was honored with the naming of the C.D. Hollis, Jr. CPA, CIA, CFE Certifications Honor Roll named after him.

Monique Earl-Livings, director of the Faculty Development Center, gave the presentation “Building a Faculty of Distinction to Prepare for Enlightened Leadership in the 21st Century Global Community” during the Willey Learning Institute’s Research Roundtable on Feb. 21.

Toni O’Neal Mosley, associate professor of history, has published two books: Solutions Manual for Mathematical Modeling I and II: Mathematical Modeling, Statistical Mechanics, Quantum Mechanics and Spectroscopy (The Educational Publisher, 2012) and Mathematical Modeling I: Quantum Mechanics and Spectroscopy (The Educational Publisher, 2012).

Gwen Wade, director of International Student Services and Study Abroad Programs, served on the national forum Awards for International Study and the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship review committees.

NEW HIRES
David Alexander, Security Officer, Campus Police
Franco Chevalier, Assistant Director of Admissions, Admissions
Tameka Clemons, Assistant Director/AMS, AMS
Ayana Collins, Administrative Assistant, Office of Health Professions
Carlo Darreus, Security Officer, Campus Police
Terrance Dixon, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management
Maisha Gunter, Administrative Assistant, Academic Advising and Retention
Albert Jenkins III, Program Assistant, Public Health Service Institute
Jacqueline Terry-Redwine, Security Officer, Campus Police
Stanley Williams, Associate Vice President and Controller, Business and Finance
Alvin Wright, Security Officer, Campus Police

PROMOTION
Dorion McDuffie, Program Director, Office of Health Professions

B.R. Brazeal Award Winners
Senior Joshua McKeeney (center) is the first-place winner of the 2013 B.R. Brazeal Award Essay Contest. The contest honors Brazeal, a 1972 graduate and former academic dean, dean of men and professor at Morehouse. Pictured from left to right are Michael Cowherd, Morehouse Pre-Alumni Association president; Henry Handgun III, 94, director of Alumni Relations, Annual Giving and Special Events; second-place finalist Tawana H. Davis; McKeeney; third-place finalist Reginald T. Burroughs III; President John Sikes and McKeeney; and Earl Nero ’72, executive director of the Morehouse College Alumni Association.
Forensics Resurgence Continues as Morehouse Debaters Earn Three National Championships This Season

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

Morehouse College Forensics team continued its climb into the nation’s upper tier of collegiate debating after bringing home three national titles during 2012-2013. Those results follow a successful 2011-2012 season in which they finished 16th nationally.

“This year’s team versus last year’s team has grown considerably,” said Kenneth Newby ’97, director of the Morehouse College Forensics Program. “We see a lot of the same students when it comes to varsity, but they’ve grown. They aren’t the same debaters. They are better.”

Newby’s debaters won two championships at the Pi Kappa Delta Nationals and another at the Novice Nationals, where they finished first place overall.

The team also finished first overall in the Georgia Parliamentary Debate Association State Finals for the third consecutive year and won first place overall in the Southeast Regional Debating Championship, which was hosted by Morehouse in February 2013.

Newby, a debate team member when he was a student, was presented the Brightest Star Award at the Pi Kappa Delta Nationals in recognition of his contributions to the art of persuasion.

Two Morehouse debaters, seniors Chris Fortson-Gaines and Byron Granberry, were nominated as All-Americans this year.

The team also was the only squad from a historically black college or university to compete in the World Universities-Debating Championships in Berlin, Germany, in December. Out of 400 teams from 82 countries, the debate team finished in the top half of the field, just missing the final rounds.

Team members were seniors Chris Fortson-Gaines, Nicholas Bacon, Austin Williams, Byron Granberry, Kevin Porter, Jameel Odom, Franklin Kwame Weldon, Anthony Voss, junior Malcolm McCullough, sophomores Emmanuel Waddell, Curtis O’Neal and Rahem Cooper-Thomas, and freshmen Rami Blair, Rodye Malcolm, Ralph Jean and Dorian Kandi. The team’s volunteer assistant coach is Derrick Reed ’12.

“They’ve gotten better through a lot of hard work and discipline and practice and I’m really proud of their accomplishments,” Newby said.

Second Phase of Legacy Tree Planting Project Adds 183 New Trees to Campus

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

Morehouse is becoming a greener campus as the second phase of a three-year process to add more trees to the area continues.

Because of a gift from an anonymous donor, 186 new trees were planted all over campus from 2011 to 2012. By June 2013, an additional 183 trees would have been added.

All types of oaks, magnolias and hollies have been planted in areas such as the Century Campus, the perimeter of the Morehouse tennis courts, West End Avenue area near the Ray Charles Performing Arts Center.

Some of the trees are replacing older trees that have been dying, but most will add to the overall number on campus.

“We thought that it was pretty appropriate that the trees will be long-lived and will leave a legacy on campus,” said Matt Nelson of Select Trees, the firm that has handled what is called The Legacy Tree Project.

“Over time, trees decline and die,” he said. “Part of the initiative here is to replace trees for future classes to enjoy. But the trees provide a welcoming environment for the campus and they become part of the campus fabric, along with making a summer in Atlanta a little more bearable. It becomes a place where students can learn in what turns into an outdoor classroom.”

Students also now have trees under which to relax outside of the Welcome Center/Parking Deck plaza.

Logistics manager John Zachary ’79 said part of the Legacy Tree Project was extended to the area after he saw a photo last summer of what has become a popular campus hangout.

“It was a random shot taken with all the students gathered around a tree in the plaza,” he said. “We were like, ‘It would be a good idea to add some additional seating and some shade trees here.’ So this became the Phase II part of the plan, which included some hardcapping and some sustainable trees.

“We are really happy with how the project has turned out and what the trees have added to our campus,” he said.
Herman Cain ’67 Offers Students Three Tips for Success in Politics and

BY ADD SEYMOUR JR.

Sensing a need for change, politician and radio show host Herman Cain ’67 became the first Morehouse Man to run for president during last year’s Republican presidential primaries. He told men of Morehouse on April 16 that they could do the same.

“That’s why I ran. Despite the challenges from the outside, you can change it from the inside,” Cain said to the Morehouse College Political Science Association, the Morehouse College Republicans and the Georgia Black Republican Council. “The founding fathers didn’t have a poll that said everybody was on board for a revolution. You only need a few passionate patriots to turn things upside down. Passion and patriots—that’s what you need.”

Cain, an Atlanta native who is also a former Morehouse trustee, spoke to a capacity audience in the African American Hall of Fame about his life lessons in politics. He gave students three points to follow: know that things aren’t what they always seem to be when looking from the outside; things can be changed from the inside; and always have a winning strategy.

The winning strategy, he said, first involves building up an asset base and net worth.

“Number one, if you’re a young aspiring public servant, go make money first,” Cain said. “Work part-time for some of the people who are holding office or running for office so you can learn what it’s like without being committed to it or being dependent on it.

“We need public servants who aren’t just happy to be there, but they are there for the right reasons,” he added. “That’s why I encourage you young men to get into politics. But be sure you have a winning strategy.”

New U.S. Navy Scholars Program to Help Diversify Medical Professions

BY ADD SEYMOUR JR.

This summer, A GROUP of incoming freshmen will get a jump on pursuing careers in the dental and medical professions, thanks to a new grant from the U.S. Navy.

They are the first group of students who will be part of the new U.S. Naval Scholars Program. The new program, which will be run by the Office of Health Professions, is funded by a $990,000 grant from the U.S. Navy.

“If you look at the context of health care, there is a need for a much more diverse set of medical providers, particularly in the armed forces,” said Ajit Amarasinghe, director of the Office of Health Professions. “The U.S Navy has taken the lead in trying to address this by helping us identify and support young men at Morehouse who are interested in medicine and dentistry.”

The students will receive scholarships and will spend their summers at naval research stations around the country doing research projects. They will come to campus before their freshmen classmates, to take part in the Thomas J. Bloker Summer Scholars Program. That program helps incoming freshmen transition from high school to a challenging collegiate curriculum.

“We’re very excited about how this is going to impact the lives of young men at Morehouse,” said Amarasinghe. “This is going to further provide opportunities that would not have existed without the support of this grant.”

Morehouse and Small Business Administration Sign Agreement

John E. Williams ’64, Dean of the Division of Business Administration and Economics (third from left), signs an agreement with U.S. Small Business Administration official Torrie Duvier (second from left) and Cassius Bull Jr. (right) to promote small business through education and community outreach.

By Shandra Hill Smith

Declaring that the Darkest Days are behind his homeland, His Excellency Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, former president of Somalia, spoke of a “new Somalia” during a campus lecture on April 23.

“So often, Somalia is labeled as a country defined by anarchy, piracy, starvation and terrorism,” said Ahmed, who served as president of Somalia from January 2009 to August 2012 — when, as he told the audience that included a showing from Atlanta’s Somali community — he lost the election and conceded to Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. “Lootings, kidnappings and rape became a daily routine for many of the vulnerable in society,” added Ahmed. Despite the country’s past, “Somalis [have] remained resilient — a trait that has ensured Somalia’s survival during the most challenging times of its history,” said Ahmed.

“As a country that spent 22 years of its 53 years of independence in war, Somalia is a young country by all standards,” he added. “It is a young democracy that needs assistance to build the right institutions to sustain its fragile democratic system.”

Ensuring “an educated population and a united vision,” said Ahmed, would help toward establishing a sustainable system as part of a bigger movement of rebuilding the Somali nation.

Former Somalia President Tells Morehouse Students There Is a New Somalia
Men Stopping Violence Talks to Men of Morehouse About Sexual Violence

BY ZOIO SEYMOUR JR.

THE STATISTICS ARE STARTLING. Forty-three percent of college men admit to using coercive behavior with a female to have sex. One in 12 college-aged men admit having fulfilled the prevailing definition of rape or attempted rape. And every 21 hours, a rape occurs on an American college campus.

“It is a very serious problem,” President John Silvanus Wilson Jr. ’79 told Morehouse students during a Presidential Town Hall Meeting. “I want you to know that this issue is a profound issue for me and I need everyone in this room to know that sexual assault will not be tolerated here because it has nothing to do with being a man of Morehouse or a Morehouse Man. It does violence to the whole notion of the definition of a Morehouse Man.”

“But,” he added, “as a man of Morehouse, there is something you can do to help stem the tide of violence against young women.”

Wilson then introduced the two men from the Decatur, Ga.-based group, Men Stopping Violence. The organization goes across the world to talk to men about dismantling belief systems, social structures and institutional practices that oppress women and children, and dehumanize men themselves.

Ramesh Kathandhi said most men will never commit rape or use physical violence to control someone they love. But what college students across the country, and at Morehouse, need to know is that they don’t have to feel alone in standing up against sexual violence.

“It may make it easier for people around me to speak the truth,” he said. “That is the power of ally.”

Kathanadhi, along with the group’s director of men’s education, Sulaiman Nuriddin, spent an hour talking about how men can resist the societal teachings that men should demand sex and find ways to press past resistance and to go against the objectification of women.

Most importantly, the two wanted the young men and women in the audience to see that they can talk honestly about the issue.

“We’ve learned that if we are going to end violence against women, it’s going to be because we are having conversations with communities, coming out to places like Morehouse and talking to men about what we can do to create safe spaces for women and girls,” Nuriddin said.

Wilson, who also went around to Morehouse residence halls to talk about preventing sexual violence, said that students can expect more of this in the future.

“These kind of organizations are trying to help men of Morehouse to be part of the solution instead of the problem, and you’re part of the problem even if you are a bystander,” he said. “Proactivity is what this and future events are all about.”

Morehouse Visits Sister School Bennett

Fifteen Morehouse students went to Greensboro, North Carolina for their fourth annual trip to sister school Bennett College, April 5-7. The students attended the Ebony Showcase, Bennett’s version of Homecoming, organized by Bennett students. Pictured are student government leaders from Bennett and Morehouse.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY HELPS HOMELESS THROUGH UNITED WAY SHOEBOX PROJECT

BY SHEILA WORTHY-FAIR

THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY staff decided to help out some families who were hoping for a happier Mother’s Day.

It started with Diane Alexander, associate vice president for Information Technology, seeing an article about the United Way of Greater Atlanta’s shoebox Project. On Mother’s Day, the Shoebox Project provided homeless women and children by providing them with personal care packages filled with basic-need or emergency-preparedness items.

Those packages included items such as hair combs, brushes, soap, lotion, socks, hand towels, flashlights, deodorant, or toothpaste and toothbrushes. The boxes are then decorated and distributed to homeless shelters and agencies in 13 metro Atlanta counties.

Alexander thought it was a good idea for the employees to get together and participate in a very worthy endeavor. She sent an email to the Information Technology staff, asking them if they wanted to participate in the cause. They accepted the challenge and started preparing boxes.

“It does my heart good to help,” said Winn Walker, a computer analyst. “Everyone needs some form of help at one time or another, and I am grateful that I had it to spare. Proverbs 19:17 says, ‘Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.’”

FRESHMAN CLASS PRESIDENT IVAN GASKIN and other members of the freshman class council wanted to do something special for their classmates. Fittingly, they came up with an idea to help remain a member of the class of 2016.

After raising money through a number of events, they are giving a $300 scholarship to a rising sophomore with a high grade point average, but also who exhibits financial need.

“We just wanted to give something back to the class,” said Gaskin, an applied science/engineering major from Seattle. “We wanted to do something that tangibly affected someone’s life and help one of our brothers to return to Morehouse next year.”

Fifty-two Morehouse students went to Greensboro, North Carolina for their fourth annual trip to sister school Bennett College, April 5-7. The students attended the Ebony Showcase, Bennett’s version of Homecoming, organized by Bennett students. Pictured are student government leaders from Bennett and Morehouse.

Paying It Forward

A staff member decorates and packs shoe boxes for the United Way of Greater Atlanta.

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By Shelia Worth

Project. On Mother’s Day, the staff members decorate and pack shoe boxes for the United Way of Greater Atlanta.

The OIT staff decided to help out some families who were hoping for a happier Mother’s Day.

By Shelia Worth

The Office of Information Technology Helps Homeless Through United Way Shoebox Project

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By Shelia Worth

The Office of Information Technology Helps Homeless Through United Way Shoebox Project
Fulfilling the Promise to Become Morehouse Men

In August 2009, during the final evening of New Student Orientation, the sea of young men in white shirts and maroon ties shouted at the top of their lungs as they promised their parents they would work hard and make them proud by one day becoming Morehouse Men.

Since then, the members of the class of 2013 have fed homeless people in Atlanta’s West End community, help rebuild an earthquake-ravaged Haiti and worked to re-elect the nation’s first black president.

Now, four years later on the College’s Century Campus, approximately 500 of those young men are about to walk across the Commencement stage and fulfill their promise.

“There is something very special about Morehouse College,” said graduating senior Reginald Wayne Sharpe Jr. “I don’t know whether I’ve been a big fish or a small fish here at Morehouse, but I have learned how to swim. So I thank God for this experience.”

Here is a small sample of the class of 2013.

Beteseagw Tadele
Valedictorian
GRADE POINT AVERAGE: 3.99
HOMETOWN: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
MAJOR: Computer Science
AFTER GRADUATION: Working as a tester for Microsoft in Seattle, Wash.

“Being valedictorian means that all of the years of hard work have paid off. From a personal level, it also means that my work has been recognized in the sense that I dedicated a lot of time to getting the grades that I did and then investing the time in increasing my skills in computer science, math and all the other classes that I took.

“On a larger scale, I think it encourages everyone around me as they can see that a boy from Ethiopia can actually succeed in America. Not just Ethiopians, but anybody on any level from anywhere in the world. They can actually come to a place and dedicate themselves and actually be something and become somebody.”

Chris Fortson-Gaines
Member of the Morehouse College Debate Team (All-American nominee)
HOMETOWN: Milwaukee, Wisc.
MAJOR: Political Science
AFTER GRADUATION: Working in federal policy analysis with the federal government

“Morehouse provides a sense of community and I’m not sure you can get that at every school. Looking back at my four years here, that’s what I appreciate the most. Almost every school can provide you with a good education. But the difference is that Morehouse has provided a sense of community amongst my peers, along with a mission that you’re given not only by your professors, but by everyone associated with the College, saying that you do owe something to the College, the community and the world.

“When you come to Morehouse, you’re taught that you are to have an impact on the world. And I think that you notice that type of perspective and the type of swagger, so to speak, that Morehouse Men arm themselves with that tends to attract other people and inspire confidence. That’s one of those intangible benefits of going to Morehouse that people notice.”

Anré Darel Washington
Student Government Association President
HOMETOWN: Hinesville, Ga.
MAJOR: Sociology
AFTER GRADUATION: Spending six months working for a Washington, D.C., consulting firm and then working for the Congressional Black Caucus

“The Morehouse experience was transformative. It took me from the man that I was, the one that my family dropped off in summer 2009, and completely enhanced and overhauled me. It broadened my mind toward different ideas on how I could help my people.

“The thing that I will miss most about Morehouse is … being able to interact with people who are dreamers, who are talented and intelligent, and who look like me. It’s going to be really, really hard to leave this brotherhood. But it’s also the people here, the administration, staff, faculty, all of the people who have poured into me. Not being around these people on a regular basis will be tough because Morehouse becomes home. It’s a place where I feel just as comfortable as I do back at home in Hinesville.”

Quintavious Williams
Highest ranking senior in philosophy program
HOMETOWN: Camilla, Ga.
MAJOR: Philosophy
AFTER GRADUATION: Pursuing master’s degree in sociology at the University of Minnesota

“The biggest thing about Morehouse to me is the community. It’s the random conversations we have, the activities, the mentors we have, the opportunities. And it’s how the world looks at Morehouse, too. They know that Morehouse produces great black men.

“I told people that somewhere around my sophomore or junior year, I found myself becoming the man I always thought I could be. It was just being here in this environment and watching other great guys doing great work and interacting with mentors such as Giles Eady, Dr. Gary Wright, Ilya Davis and Dean Harry Wright Jr. Those four men in particular molded me into who I am. They gave me the opportunities; they gave me the conversations. Some gave me a pat on the back, while others gave me the reprimand when I needed it. It was just having that. And I can’t forget the culture of service and the community. These are the biggest pieces of the Morehouse experience for me and they have affected my life immensely.”

LOOKING BACK: New Student Orientation 2009

The class of 2013 during New Student Orientation in 2009 in being led by Freshman Dean Alvin Harden ’72.

Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Anne Watts addresses the class of 2013.
Graduation is a Family Affair for Father and Son

BY STAN WASHINGTON

Commencement day will be a very special one for Dorian Joyner Sr. and his family. Not only will he proudly watch his son, Dorian Jr., get his degree from Morehouse. Dorian Jr. will be getting his degree also.

Origin of the idea to graduate in 1988, Joyner Sr. decided that building his computer business was more important. “Frankly, I was making too much money,” he said. Over the years, Joyner got married and had a son. A few years ago, he decided to change careers from computers to law. There was also that bit of business of finishing up his degree at Morehouse. By the time, he was ready to return to the College, he had company. “I decided to come back and finish up my degree and it just so happened that by that time, my son had started at Morehouse and we ended up on the same path,” he said.

Father and son became classmates. While some would have cringed if their parent was a student at the same college, for Dorian Joyner Jr. “it’s been nothing but a pleasant experience. “It’s been very natural. We’ve had some classes together. We’ve studied together. He has his own social life. I have mine. When we are on campus, we see each other as students, but also as father and son,” Joyner Jr. said.

Joyer Sr. was scheduled to graduate in 2012, but a bout with cancer delayed his graduation for a year. That delay turned out to be a blessing (he’s now cancer-free). He will not only walk with his son and to hear President Barack Obama but, his mother, who turns 80 that week, will get to see the last of her children get his college degree and her first grandchild receive his.

“The loss of her four of five children to graduation this year. They hail from six countries: The Bahamas (2), Canada (1), Ethiopia (1), Ghana (2), South Africa (2) and Zaire (1).”

“I thought of myself coming to this historically black institution with my ideas. I’ve always seen myself as someone who is connected to my own community and I saw myself coming to Morehouse, an institution that has catered to lots of great historic alumni and doing what I can to continue that legacy and bring that back to my community. That’s what I sought to do – take that knowledge and experience and historic legacy back home where I can aid my African Canadian community in Toronto.”
Filmmaker Spike Lee ’79 Reminisces About Filming ‘School Daze’ in the AUC

BY ADD SEYMOUR JR.

The summer after Shelton “Spike” Lee’s sophomore year at Morehouse, his advisor told him that he needed to choose a major. It was the summer of 1977 and Lee was home in Brooklyn, visiting a friend.

“In the middle of the room, there was this box with a Super 8 camera in it and a box of film,” Lee told a crowd in the Ray Charles Performing Arts Center’s Emma and Joe Adams Concert Hall on March 27. “I said, ‘What is that?’ said Lee, a 1979 Morehouse graduate. “She said, ‘It’s a camera. I don’t want it. Someone gave it to me.’ She said I could have it. A camera and a box of film. That stuff was not circumstance. That was not a mistake. The spirit guided me to her house that day.”

With that, an iconic filmmaker’s career was born.

It’s one of many stories Lee told during his appearance, where the focus was on his second major film, “School Daze,” which he shot in the Atlanta University Center in 1987 and was released a year later. The film examined black college life and issues that divided students and administrators during that time.

“It doesn’t seem like it’s been 25 years, but it has been,” Lee said. “For me the greatest testament for this film in my opinion is people still come to me and say, ‘I went to a black school because I saw “School Daze.”’ People do that and they are young and just saw it on TV. It’s not like they were around and saw it in the theater.”

Lee had the audience laughing and applauding for nearly two hours as he elaborated on the making of the film, showed and explained the film’s music videos, and told some of the behind-the-scenes stories. For instance, he laughed at his decision to create tension by putting one of the film’s groups in a nice hotel and the other at a run-down venue.

But Lee also took the time to tell the audience how education needs to be celebrated by young people.

“The whole thing has become topsy-turvy,” he said. “Ignorance is championed and intelligence, well, you’re corny if you’re called smart. We’re talking about young black kids who are at that critical age where they will succumb to peer pressure and will fail on purpose because they don’t want to be called a sellout. This is genocide. There is nothing smart about being ignorant.”

President John Silvanus Wilson Jr. ’79, one of Lee’s closest friends since the two met during their freshmen year, said it is why he likes to show audiences the “Wake Up” scene from “School Daze.”

“I think that’s what Spike has been trying to say quite clearly with his art and his life,” he said.

Jasmine Mathews, Miss Maroon and White 2012-2013 (right), and Kevin Booker, associate dean of Student Life (left), present a check for $750 to Blyndia Foster and the National Center for Cervical Cancer Coalition. The money was raised from the Office of Student Life’s annual Dodge Ball Tournament held in March.

Dodge Ball for Cancer

Remembering Roger Williams

John E. Williams ’69, dean of the Division of Business Administration and Economics, holds up a plaque honoring the late economics professor Roger C. Williams during the E.B. Williams Awards Banquet. Roger Williams, who taught at Morehouse for 14 years, passed away in November.
SPRING SPORTS

Eight in a Row!
Track and Field Team Wins Eighth Straight SIAC Title and Team Academic Championship

BY ADD SEYMOUR, JR.

The Maroon Tigers, who finished far ahead of Albany State and Stillman in the team competition, were led by sophomores Jeremy Blue and Nicholas Hall along with senior Karlton Mitchell.

Blue was named the meet’s most valuable performer after winning the discus throw and finishing second in the javelin throw. Hall was second in both the 5000-meter run and 10000-meter run and third in the 3000-meter steeplechase. Mitchell was second in the 1500-meter run and the 3000-meter steeplechase and fourth in the 800-meter run.

Hall’s squad also topped the SIAC in the classroom as they earned the 2013 SIAC Track and Field Academic Team Championship.

Of the athletes who have the top 14 grade point averages in the SIAC, seven of them are Morehouse student-athletes. Hall, a business administration major, had a 3.91 grade point average, the highest among track and field athletes this year. Others on the All Academic Team are:

- Joshua Maley-Lee, sophomore, mathematics, 3.68
- Blake Bufford, senior, biology, 3.54
- Terrace White, senior, physics, 3.46
- Arvon Amisial, junior, kinesiology, 3.46
- Kasahun Neselu, junior, biology, 3.45
- Karlton Mitchell, senior, psychology, 3.44

GOLF

Maroon Tigers Golfers Honored

THE SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC Conference recognized three Morehouse golfers for their stellar play in 2013. Sophomore Justin McGelderly was named to the first team SIAC All-Golf team. Junior Bruce Cousins and freshman Christ Norman were named the All-Conference second team.

It capped a strong season by the Maroon Tigers who finished second to Paine in the 2013 Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference regular season and second in the SIAC Conference Tennis Championships held at Morehouse in February.

The Maroon Tigers narrowly missed winning another conference title when they fell to Stillman in the championship round. Stillman finished the SIAC schedule undefeated.

TENNIS

Tennis Team Finish Second in SIAC

HEADING INTO THE 2013 SEASON, coach Terry Alexander had concerns about his Morehouse tennis team’s level of experience. But led by his son, Noah Terry, the Maroon Tigers finished second in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference regular season and second in the SIAC Conference Tennis Championships held at Morehouse in February.

The Maroon Tigers narrowly missed winning another conference title when they fell to Stillman in the championship round. Stillman finished the SIAC schedule undefeated.

Terry was named the All-Tournament singles team and was joined by doubles partner Chris Hawthorne on the All-Tournament doubles team.

Terry also was named to the regular season All-SIAC team. Hawthorne and Kahal Hall were named to the All-SIAC singles second team. Terry and Hawthorne, along with Hall and Jahze Beazer, were second team All-SIAC doubles team choices.

Faculty/Staff Basketball Team Defeats Students 45-44

THE MOREHOUSE COLLEGE FACULTY AND STAFF basketball team won their annual game against a group of students when they defeated the Morehouse College Navy ROTC student team 45-44 on April 2 in Forbes Arena. It was the second consecutive win over the students. The faculty/staff team included Brandon Forbes, Irvin Seabrook, Darrell Shelton, Keith Sherrer, Rayonn Whitehead and Doug Whittier. The team was coached by Kevin Booker.
Successful Students are Real Wages

John E. Williams '69
Dean, Division of Business Administration and Economics
Tenure: 24 years

"I WAS FIRST MADE PROFESSOR IN 1983, before we had the divisional structure. I joined Morehouse for the primary purpose of contributing to the finance education of Morehouse students. There was no finance program when I returned to teach in 1978.

"My primary concern was for students to understand the paradoxes of finance as differentiated from accounting. I would say that accountants generate data and organize it, while finance professionals make decisions based on that data. If you think financial literacy is low in our community today, imagine what it was like in the 70s to talk about a young black man headed to Wall Street. It was totally a culture transformation. Because finance is very unique in undergraduate schools, what I was doing was preparing them to attend the very best graduate finance programs in the country. The thing about finance and minorities, at least those from our communities, even if they were interested in studying finance in graduate school, when they got there they often changed their majors. They did not understand the language of finance. It wasn’t so much they couldn’t conceptualize what professors were talking about. Unless you had exposure to those paradigms, you felt like you were in a foreign language class.

"We were trying to make the point, ‘Do not categorize us. Don’t stereotype us.’ I was very proud of that. But mostly, because students were very proud that they could say they were from a quality institution.

"The next thing that was important to me, students were getting jobs at companies with individuals who had traveled quite a bit. They talked about their international travel. So our students said to me, ‘A number of students talk a lot about their international travel though they are not smarter than we are.’

"We decided to start taking our top students on an international spring tour. That first year we went to three or four different cities. And we’ve been doing it every year since. And we created a culture. The culture was it didn’t matter if you were not one of 25 students to go. The students who went talked about where they went. Before you knew it, their peers were going places. So we created a culture.

"I’m very pleased with my students and their outcome. I must have about 50 students who manage pension funds for companies. I’ve had students who’ve attempted leveraged buyouts of other firms. Students who’ve made so much money on Wall Street that they’d take leaves to try to figure out what it all means. We’ve just very pleased with all the accomplishments. The successful students are the real wages a professor works for. That’s my legacy."

I Wanted To Be a Master Teacher

Anne Wimbush Watts
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
Tenure: 42 years

"I CAME HERE IN MY EARLY 20s. When I walked into the classroom the first day, it was the weirdest feeling because they just stared at me. There was silence. Little did I know that a new, young teacher had to be initiated. I was nervous, obviously. It was new to me but I opened the class, told them who I was and I gave them the objectives to the class and I began teaching. It took quite awhile to get adjusted to their just being a sea of young men. Then the initiation started. There was so much that I didn’t know.

"But I’m new and it’s the first few weeks of school. There was a group here to evaluate Morehouse for something. For some reason, somebody chose my class to be one of the classes that they observed...the visitors were in my class to observe me. The students then asked questions that Einstein couldn’t answer. They asked difficult, decision-making, problem-solving questions that Jesus would have had a hard time deciding. And then I would say something that I thought was pretty profound and they ripped it apart. They did that the entire class period and I lost control of my class.

"I went home and I was troubled. And I said this could go on forever. I saw the master teachers and I saw them engage them that way, too.

"The next day, I came into class and called the roll. I said, ‘Everybody close your books and take out a piece of paper.’ I had to outsmart them. I gave them a pop quiz. I sat there and graded them. F. F. F. F. F. And I passed them back. They said, ‘This is not fair.’ I said, ‘Who said life is fair?’ ‘The next class period, I did the same thing.

"By this time, the A students are troubled because that GPA is sliding down. And I said, ‘The next time you think you can take me on and embarrass this institution over nothing, you’d better think twice. Now are you ready to learn?’ They said, ‘Yes, ma’am.’ ‘Well, I’m ready to teach.’ After that, we got along very well. I had passed the test."

Magic Occurs on this Campus

Willis B. Sheftall Jr. ’64
Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Tenure: 34 years

"THE REAL CHALLENGE OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION is not so much the intellectual exercise. Sometimes the bigger challenge is maturation. When the two things coincide, when maturation and intellectual development occur at roughly the same speed, in fantastic to watch. You see that occurring in three to four years. You can see the difference in how a young man is thinking. Not what he’s thinking, but how he thinks. I don’t think our job is to have students to think a particular thing. It is helping them to achieve some clarity around the thought process and grow in appreciation of evidence-based thought, evidence-based conclusions. Watching that occur is a really fascinating part of the job, one that I’ve really enjoyed observing and being a part of.

"What Morehouse means to me is the continuing commitment to a level of excellence that is uncommon. We talk about that in terms of the Howard Thurman ‘23 quote: “Placing a crown above their heads and challenging our students to grow tall enough to wear it.” It’s not just having expectations. It’s having the highest expectations for our students. That translates into not being surprised when they do well. We expect them to do well. That commitment to excellence, and the continuation of that, is one of the things that sets Morehouse apart.

"The other thing is that magic occurs on this campus. I’m a hard-boiled economist. I’m not one of those people who believes a lot in mystery. But there is some magic that occurs here. We can talk about what we do with respect to 90 percent of the experience a student has here. We can say this is what he’s doing. He takes this course; this is the outcome we expect. But it’s about 10 percent magic. That’s the mystique. It’s not just the cake on the cake. It’s more like the icing throughout the cake. That Morehouse mystique is real, and I think one of the things that sets us apart.

"There’s something about a Morehouse Man. And it’s pretty easy to recognize by people other than Morehouse folks. I think that’s another of those one of things that sets the institution apart and if we lost that, it would be at the institution’s peril. I don’t think we’re in danger of doing that, but it’s important that we maintain that and create an environment that is conducive for the maintenance and continuation of that. One of the things that’s going to be critical to Morehouse maintaining its stature is having excellent leadership. I really believe Dr. Wilson is providing that kind of leadership and will provide that leadership going into the future."

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"But I wanted to be a master teacher. I saw Dr. Brisbane’s classes and Dr. Wmndalli Wham’s classes packed with students and their chairs hanging out the door. I wanted to know what they were doing, so I would stand outside the door and listen.

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"I went home and I was troubled. And I said this could go on forever. I saw the master teachers and I saw them engage students, and, though I was a female, I knew I could engage them that way, too.

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INSIDE MOREHOUSE, MAY 2013

MAKING A DIFFERENCE
Students Spend Spring Break Rebuilding Haiti

By ADD SEYMOND JR.

Instead of basking under sunny skies and lazily sitting on a bench during Spring Break, 10 Morehouse students spent their week painting buildings, digging ditches and doing other hard work in Haiti.

It was their annual Alternative Spring Break Trip, led by Julius Coles ’04, interim director of the Leadership Center at Morehouse College and the Andrew Young Center for Global Education.

The trip is the third since Jacque Pape ’12, a Port-au-Prince native, helped initiate the program after a 2011 earthquake devastated the Caribbean nation. Ever since then, a group of Morehouse and Spelman students have spent their spring break doing public service activities to help Haiti rebound from the disaster.

“This year’s project was to dig a foundation for a new chapel being established at an orphanage and to paint one of the buildings,” Coles said. “In addition to that, there was a special effort to make gifts available to other kids who were living in an underserved area at the top of a mountain near the location of the orphanage.”

It wasn’t easy work. It took three hours to hike the mountains to deliver supplies to the needy at the top. They had to work with primitive and basic tools to dig ditches in rocky and hard soil that had not had water for a long time.

“When we were competing with the terrain,” said Seth Brown, a junior biology major from Stockholm, Sweden. “Brown has been a leader on the trips ever since he joined Pape on the first trip in 2011.

“There are two aspects of the trip that we try to accomplish,” Brown said. “One is with the service projects and how we can improve life down there. But the second part is for our students by opening their eyes to a developing country and showing them the different dynamics that exist in that environment and really getting a view of what is needed long term to make a difference in a developing country.”

He and Coles agreed that the group, which half of them had never been outside of the United States before, gained a sense of accomplishment in Haiti.

“We’re able to give our students a full experience and something they can take with them for the rest of their lives,” Brown said. “It’s wonderful to see the interaction with the kids in the orphanage and the simple little smiles and laughs that creates. Long term, we can make a difference.”

2013-14 Miss Maroon and White and Her Court

The newly crowned Miss Maroon and White, Jasmine Walker, a psychology major from New Orleans, poses with her court, 1st attendant Tamiie Mackie, an international studies major from Detroit, and 2nd attendant Taphaphene K. Young, a psychology/pre-dental major from Richmond, Va. The ladies, all rising seniors from Spelman College, will represent Morehouse during the 2013-2014 academic year.

Gold Shades to Take Their Talents to the Apollo Theater Stage

By ADD SEYMOND JR.

Twins Marlin and Julian Booker, along with classmate Gary Clark III, figured they were too busy recording songs as their singing group Gold Shades. They didn’t plan on trying out for a spot on the famed New York City stage of the Apollo Theater for Amateur Night.

But when a friend called them to say only a few Atlanta University Center students had shown up at The Ray Charles Performing Arts Center for the auditions in February, they decided to drop by.

Good decision.

The trio of Morehouse sophomores wowed the judges with their renditions of “The Star Spangled Banner” and Boys II Men’s “End of the Road” so much that they told them on the spot that they were headed to New York.

“They were stoked,” said Julian Booker who, like his brother is an international studies major from Hawai’i. Their July 11 appearance at the Apollo will be the biggest for the new group which came out of a jam session during New Student Orientation two years ago.

Back then, they were part of an 11-student singing collective called The Hilltones.

“We’re able to give our students a full experience and something they can take with them for the rest of their lives,” Brown said. “It’s wonderful to see the interaction with the kids in the orphanage and the simple little smiles and laughs that creates. Long term, we can make a difference.”

They describe their sound as a cross between RB and pop, with touches of classical, rock and other forms of music. All three are vocalists and play multiple instruments.

“They’ve performed in music venues around Atlanta, at the beginning of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship basketball game, at the “A Candle in the Dark” Gala, and many times in front of their fellow AUC-students.

Mentored by senior Keyem Martin, himself a singer and songwriter, the group is planning on putting out a three-track album by the summer. They hope to have a full-length album by the fall.

“We are an honor roll students and have balanced school life and music life pretty well. But right now, they are getting ready for the bright lights and legendary tough crowd of the Apollo.

“A lot of people have told us that the AUC has a tough crowd,” Martin Booker said. “Some people aren’t tougher than the Apollo. But we know Lauren Hill and Luther Vandross got booked at the Apollo. So, as great as you think you may be, you never know. But we’re going to bring our “A” game. We’re going to be putting a lot of work into preparations for our performance.”
**What I Do**

“I support the fundraising program and the president of Morehouse College by taking an active role in broadening and strengthening the financial base of the college, targeting leadership ($100,000+) and principal ($1 million+) gifts from the private sector. Most of my activities are directed toward individuals. In carrying out my responsibilities, I have the opportunity to meet so many interesting people who share our belief in the mission. It is incumbent upon me to ensure to the best of my ability that our donors feel good about their investment so that they become ambassadors for Morehouse and adept in telling our story in the larger community. I enjoy what I do and take great pride in the achievements of our faculty and students which create the cause and case for financial support. One of my greatest joys is to observe a student’s transformation from a man at Morehouse to a Morehouse man. As a parent of HBCU alumni daughters and grandparent of current students at Spelman College and Morehouse College, I am an advocate for the HBCU experience and value the opportunity to contribute to our community through my friend- and fund-raising work on behalf of Morehouse.”